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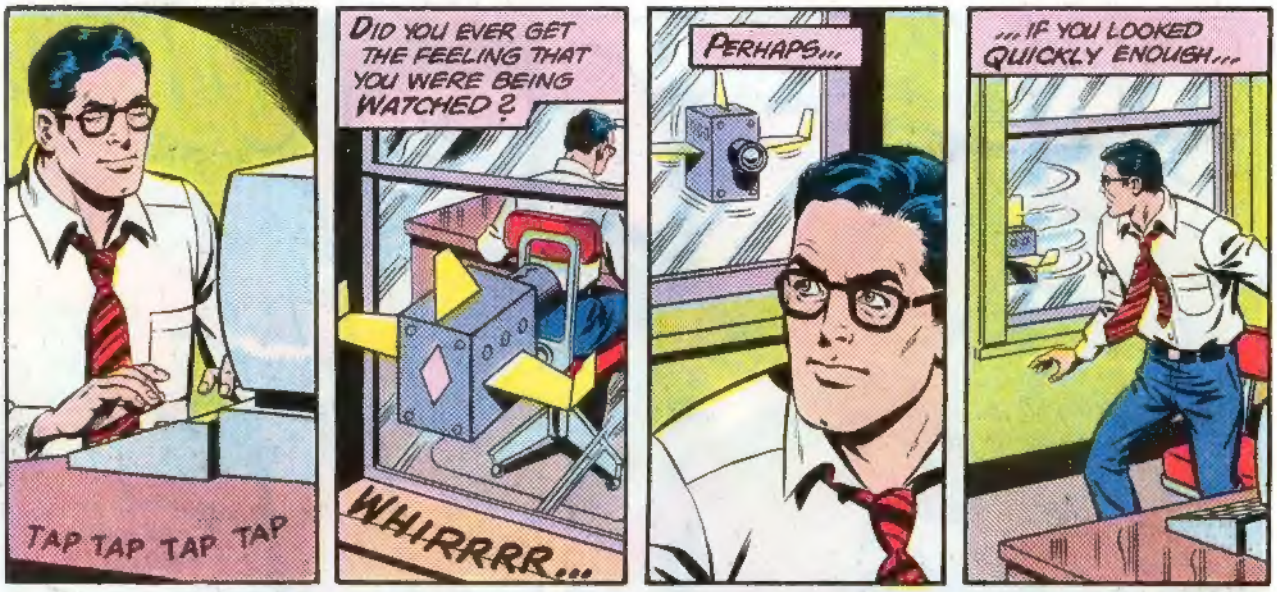

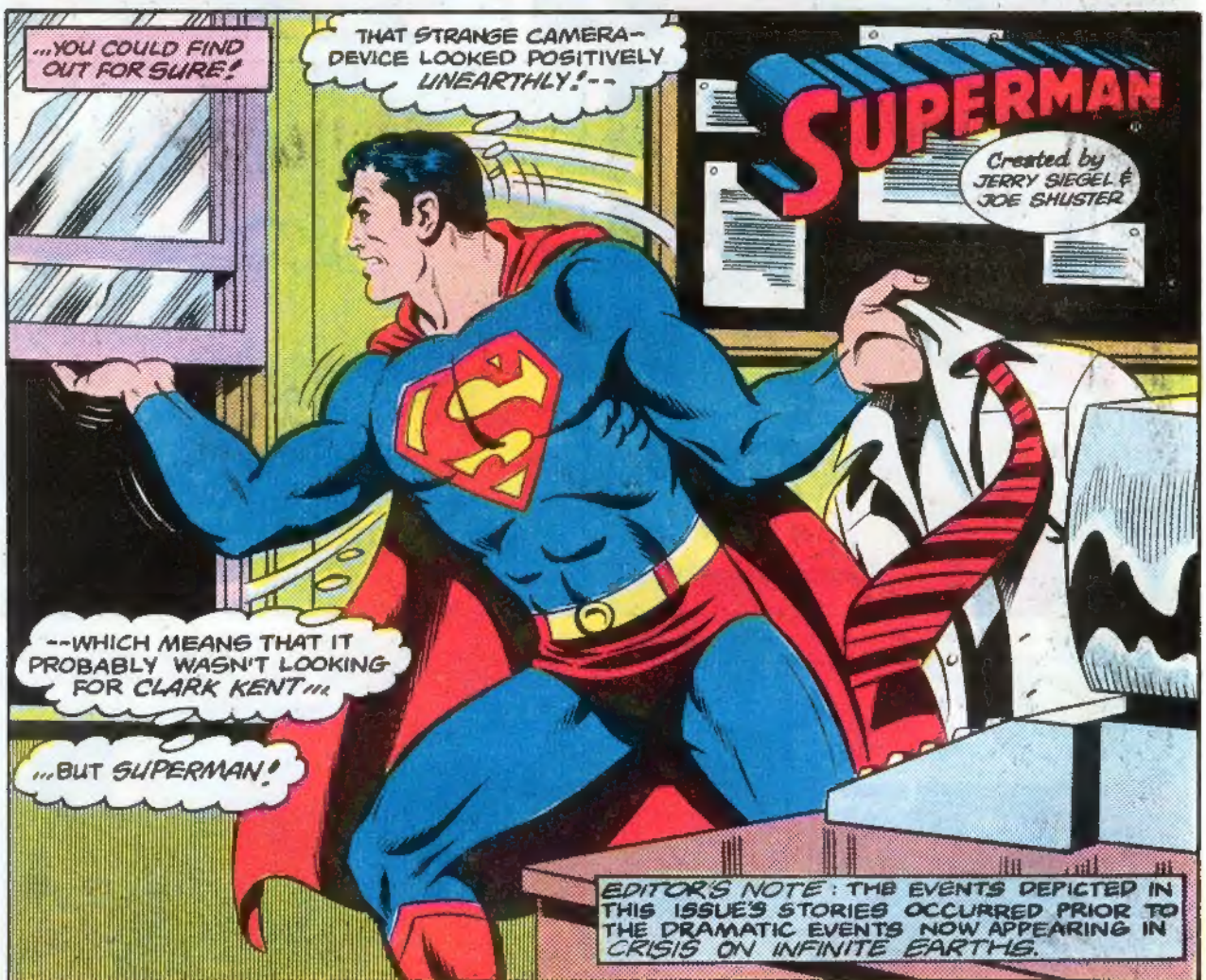
...YOU COULD FIND OUT FOR SURE!
THAT STRANGE CAMERA-DEVICE LOOKED POSITIVELY UNEARTHLY!--
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
--WHICH MEANS THAT IT PROBABLY WASN'T LOOKING FOR CLARK KENT...
...BUT SUPERMAN!
EDITOR'S NOTE: THE EVENTS DEPICTED IN THIS ISSUE'S STORIES OCCURRED PRIOR TO THE DRAMATIC EVENTS NOW APPEARING IN CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS.

MAY the BEST WORLD WIN!

CRAIG BOLDMAN, WRITER; KURT SCHAFFENBERGER, PENCILLER; DAVE HUNT, INKER
MILT SNAPINN, LETTERER; GENE D'ANGELO, COLORIST; JULIUS SCHWARTZ, EDITOR

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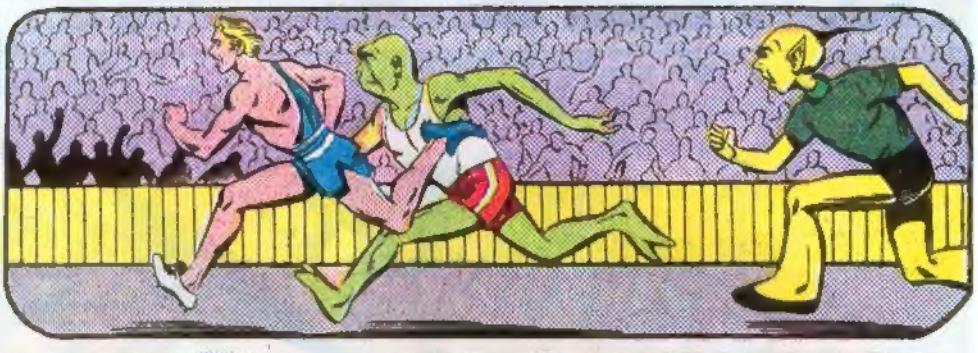
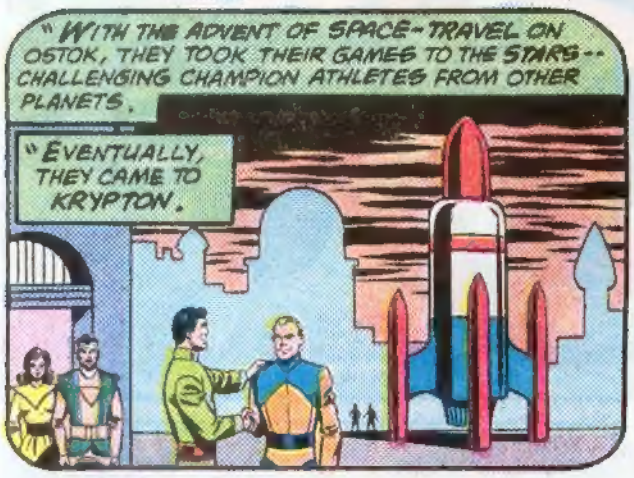
A Jane Jetson Scan 2005

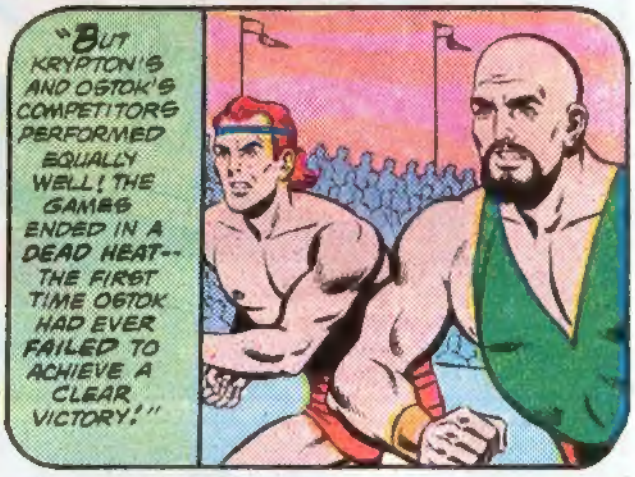
AND, IN A BLINK OF THE MIND'S EYE...
TO WHOM DO I OWE THE PLEASURE...?
FORGIVE ME, SUPERMAN! I HOPED TO INTRODUCE MYSELF WITH A BIT MORE DIGNITY!
I AM LORD CHANCELLOR OF THE PLANET OSTOK!
GASP! YOU SAID-- OSTOK?
IT'S OVER! GROAN!
MY BRILLIANT CAREER IS OVER!
IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I'VE TURNED IN A MAJOR STORY! MY PUBLIC IS FORGETTING ABOUT ME!
LOOKS LIKE THE OLD OLSEN LUCK HAS BOTTOMED OUT AT LAST!
?!?
--OR MAYBE NOT!
LOOKS LIKE A STORY BREWING RIGHT OUTSIDE MY WINDOW! SUPERMAN'S ALWAYS NEWS!
NOW, LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT. YOU SENT THIS CAMERA/TRANSMITTER TO EARTH-- TO CHALLENGE ME TO AN ATHLETIC COMPETITION...?
...PITTING YOU AGAINST OUR PLANET'S CHAMPION!
YOU REALIZE THAT ON EARTH, I HAVE POWERS AND ABILITIES WHICH WERE UNHEARD OF ON KRYPTON!
YES! BUT SINCE OUR GRAVITY AND SUN WERE IDENTICAL TO KRYPTON'S, OUR ATHLETE HAS THE SAME POWERS! REST ASSURED-- YOU WILL FACE A WORTHY OPPONENT!
MMM!... THE IDEA INTRIGUES ME. BUT MY OTHER DUTIES--
YOU WILL BE COMPETING FOR KRYPTON'S HONOR-- AND EARTH'S AS WELL!

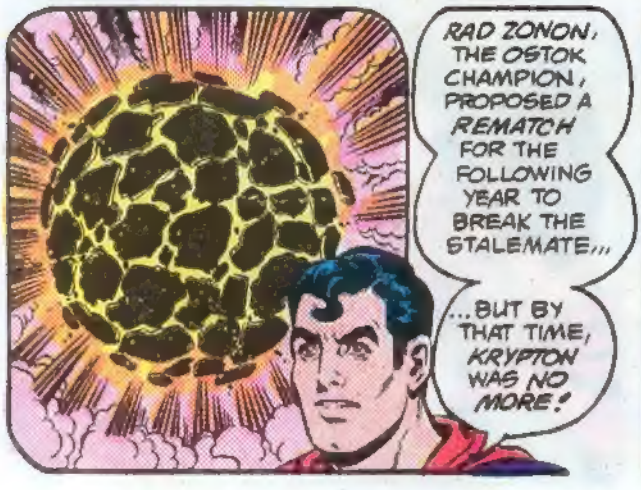
"OSTOK IS A PLANET IN KRYPTON'S SOLAR SYSTEM, THOUGH OUR ORBITS KEPT US ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF MY PLANET'S RED SUN.

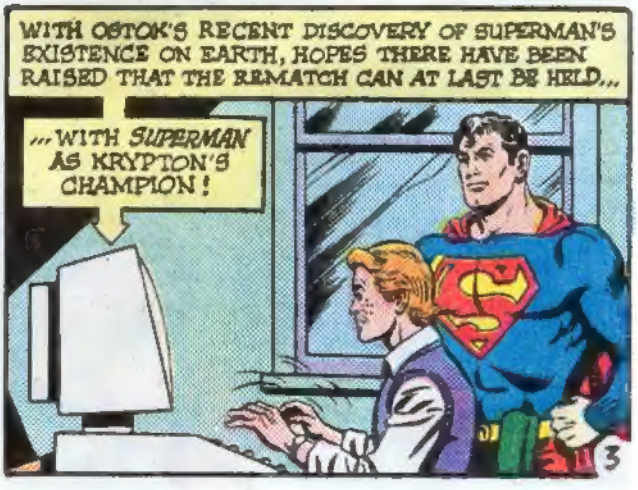
"ITS PEOPLE HAD LONG BEEN OBSESSED WITH SPORTING COMPETITIONS OF EVERY SORT.




"WITH THE ADVENT OF SPACE-TRAVEL ON OSTOK, THEY TOOK THEIR GAMES TO THE STARS--CHALLENGING CHAMPION ATHLETES FROM OTHER PLANETS.
"EVENTUALLY, THEY CAME TO KRYPTON.


"BUT KRYPTON'S AND OSTOK'S COMPETITORS PERFORMED EQUALLY WELL! THE GAMES ENDED IN A DEAD HEAT--THE FIRST TIME OSTOK HAD EVER FAILED TO ACHIEVE A CLEAR VICTORY!"


RAD ZONON, THE OSTOK CHAMPION, PROPOSED A REMATCH FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR TO BREAK THE STALEMATE...
...BUT BY THAT TIME, KRYPTON WAS NO MORE!


WITH OSTOK'S RECENT DISCOVERY OF SUPERMAN'S EXISTENCE ON EARTH, HOPES THERE HAVE BEEN RAISED THAT THE REMATCH CAN AT LAST BE HELD...
...WITH SUPERMAN AS KRYPTON'S CHAMPION!

"THE CHANCELLOR OF OSTOK HAS PROPOSED THAT THE TIE-BREAKING SERIES OF EVENTS BE HELD ON EARTH. THAT DIGNITARY IS NOW AWAITING SUPERMAN'S APPROVAL OF THE PLAN..."
DAILY ø PLANET
SUPERMAN CHALLENGED
IN THE DAYS WHICH FOLLOW...
GREAT SCOTT, JIMMY! WHAT DID YOU DO TO EARN ALL THIS MAIL?
THEY'RE LETTERS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE--ALL URGING SUPERMAN TO TAKE UP THE OSTOKS' CHALLENGE!
I HAD NO IDEA THE PUBLIC WOULD GO FOR THIS SORT OF THING!
OF COURSE! THE EARTH IS PROUD OF SUPERMAN! WHY SHOULDN'T WE SHOW HIM OFF?
LATER...
THANKS FOR THE LIFT, SUPERMAN!
YEAH, BUT SHOULDN'T YOU BE IN TRAINING?
SCHOOL BUS
SCHOOL BUS
YOU PUMP NOTHING BUT SCHOOL BUSES, YOU'LL NEVER GET IN SHAPE FOR THAT OSHKOSH GUY!
HMMM...
I'D HAVE FELT UNEASY ABOUT TAKING TIME AWAY FROM MY NORMAL DUTIES--BUT EVERYONE'S BEHIND ME ON THIS...
SUPERMAN--HAVE YOU REACHED A DECISION?
YES, I HAVE!--BRING ON YOUR CHAMPION!
CLAP! CLAP!
YEAH!
YIPPEE!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

THE A-MAZE-ING
OREO®!
CHOCOLATE SANDWICH COOKIE
Can you help the delicious OREO cookie find the glass of milk?
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Imagine all the fun you can have with OREO cookies!
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AND SO...
...IN THE WEEK SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT, IT SEEMS THAT THE ENTIRE PLANET HAS CAUGHT SUPERMAN FEVER!
SUPERMAN IS #1
SUPER DUPER

AND SO...
A SPECIAL PANEL OF SCIENTISTS, APPOINTED BY THE U.N., HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH THE TASK OF DEVISING A SERIES OF GLOBE-SPANNING CONTESTS WORTHY OF THE SUPER-POWERED OPPONENTS!

AND SO...
...THE CROWD IS ELECTRIC WITH ANTICIPATION AS SUPERMAN WAITS TO GREET HIS COUNTERPART FROM THE PLANET OSTOK!
BUT SO FAR-- WAIT!

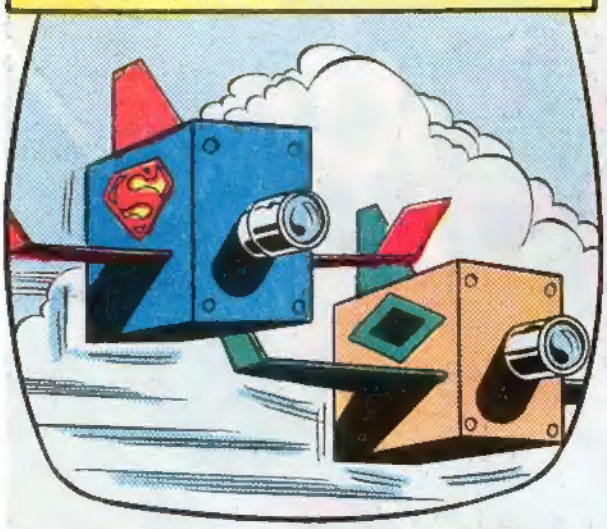
PEOPLE OF EARTH--
--AND SUPERMAN--

--I EXTEND THE WARMEST WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF OSTOK!
AND WE OF EARTH WELCOME YOU--RAD ZONON!

I AM THE OSTOK CHAMPION WHO COMPETED IN THE PREVIOUS, UNDECIDED CONTEST ON KRYPTON, MANY YEARS AGO!
MY ELDERS HAVE GRANTED ME THIS CHANCE TO REDEEM MYSELF!

PLEASE ACCEPT MY SORROW AT THE LOSS OF YOUR NATIVE PLANET!
I WAS TRAVELING TO KRYPTON TO STAGE THE ORIGINAL REMATCH WHEN THE GREAT CATASTROPHE OCCURRED!
I SEE YOU'VE MASTERED THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE!
YES... MY TRAINING HAS BEEN VERY THOROUGH!
SUPERMAN, YOU LOOK LOST! WORRIED THIS GUY'LL LEAVE YOU IN THE DUST?
IT'S NOT THAT, JIMMY...
...I JUST NOTICED SOMETHING ODD--
NO! I MUST BE MISTAKEN! WELL, GOT TO GET GOING. BIG DAY TOMORROW!
"MISTAKEN"? FAT CHANCE!
SUPERMAN'S NEVER MISTAKEN! I CAN READ HIM LIKE A BOOK--AND THIS WHOLE SET UP SUDDENLY SMELLS LIKE A DEAD FISH TO HIM!
WHICH MEANS-- ANOTHER FRONT-PAGE BYLINE FOR JIMMY OLSEN!
AND FINALLY, THE BIG DAY...
THIS IS LANA LANG AT METROPOLIS STADIUM! A STANDING-ROOM-ONLY CROWD AWAITS THE OPENING OF TODAY'S GAMES!
SINCE THE CONTESTS WILL TAKE OUR COMPETITORS TO PLACES WHICH WOULD BE INACCESSIBLE TO EARTH TECHNOLOGY...

"...WE WILL VIEW THE EVENTS THROUGH THESE ROBOT CAMERAS, COURTESY OF RAD ZONON. THEY WILL BEAM THE ACTION ACROSS OUR GLOBE AND TO OSTOK AS WELL.



"THE CONTESTANTS HAVE ENTERED THE ARENA, AND THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF IS READY TO ANNOUNCE..."

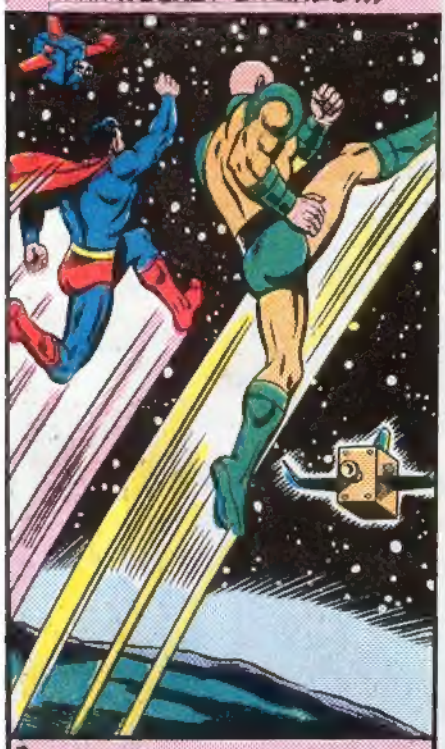
LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

AND MAY THE BEST WORLD WIN!

HOOOOORAAYYY!

"OUR FIRST EVENT IS A TRACK-AND-FIELD CONTEST UNLIKE ANY STAGED BEFORE--ON EARTH OR OFF!

"BECAUSE OUR CONTESTANTS' LEG MUSCLES ARE MORE POWERFUL THAN ROCKET ENGINES...

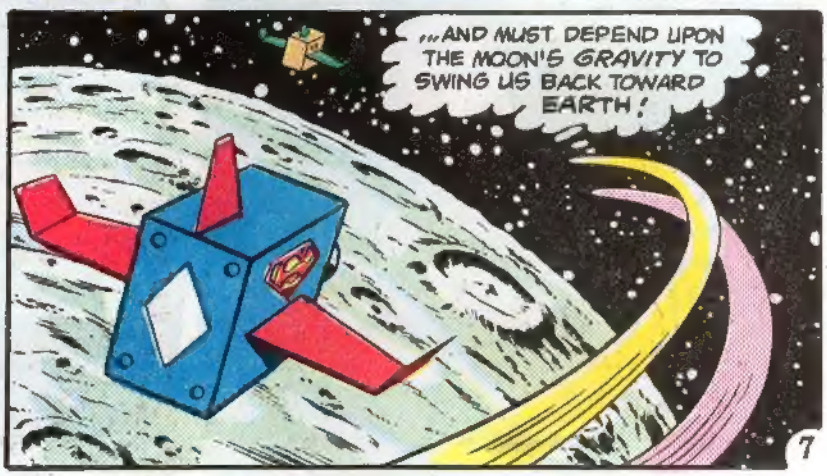


"...SUPERMAN AND ZONON ARE LITERALLY LEAPING FOR THE STARS!

"OR MORE PRECISELY... THE MOON!"

MY OPPONENT SEEMS UP TO THE TASK!

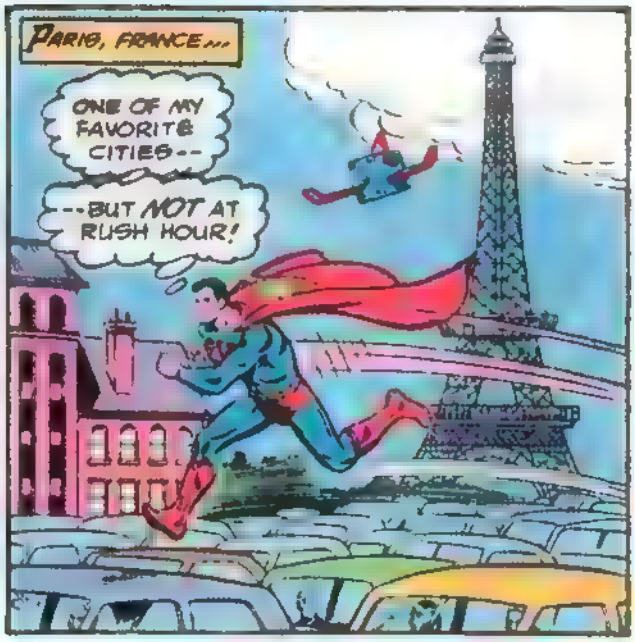
WE'RE FORBIDDEN TO USE OUR FLYING POWERS IN THIS EXERCISE...

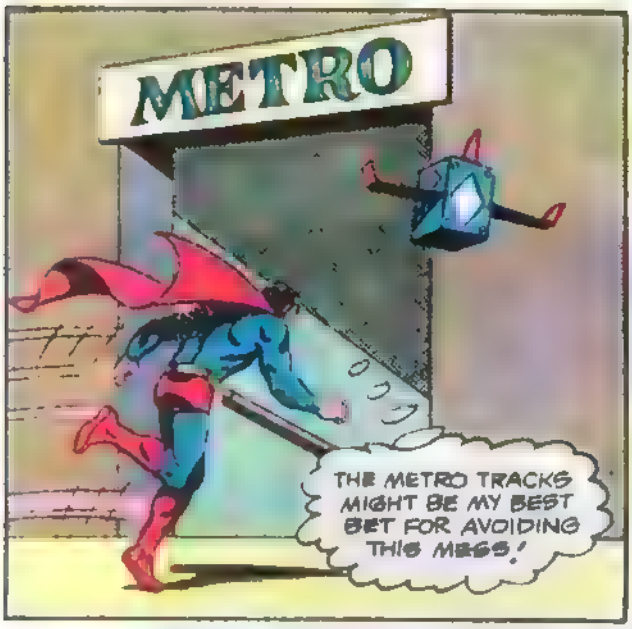


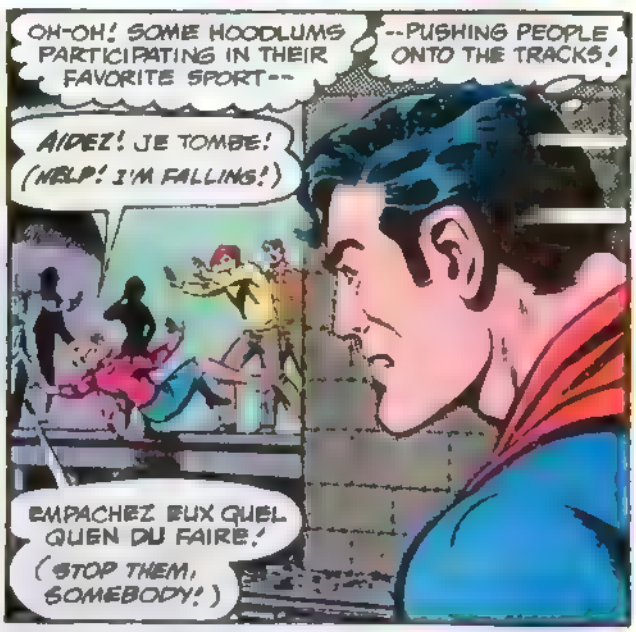
...AND MUST DEPEND UPON THE MOON'S GRAVITY TO SWING US BACK TOWARD EARTH!

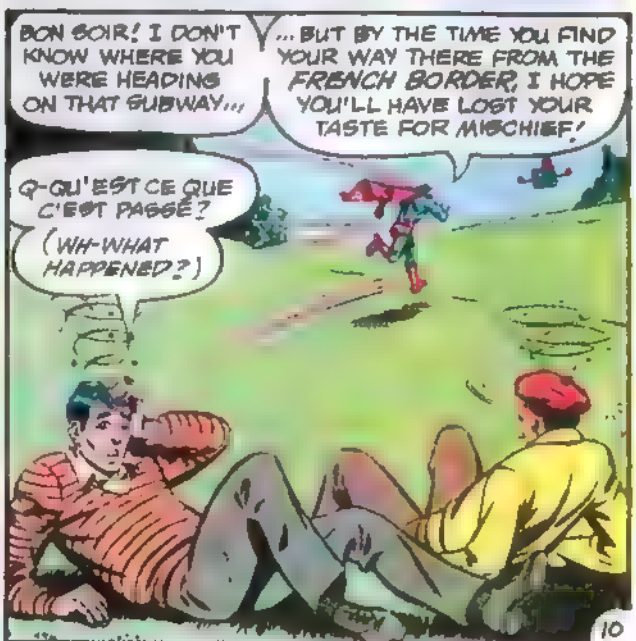
THANKS TO THAT ROBOT CAMERA, WE DON'T MISS A SECOND OF THE ACTION!
LOOK! SUPERMAN'S APPLIED HIS ONE LEGAL BURST OF SPEED TO BREAK FREE OF HIS LUNAR ORBIT...
"...AND RETURN TO GROUND ZERO!"
"YEAH, AND THE ALIEN IS RIGHT BEHIND HIM!"
WHOOMP!
THIS OSTOK TABULATOR--APPROVED BY BOTH CONTESTANTS--IS THE OFFICIAL JUDGE OF OUR CONTEST! IT DIGESTS DATA TRANSMITTED BY CAMERA!
SUPERMAN HAS LEAPED OVER 238,860 MILES TO HIS FIRST WIN OF THE KRYPTON/OSTOK GAMES!
CONGRATULATIONS, MY FRIEND!
THANKS! BUT IF OUR COMPUTERIZED "JUDGE" WEREN'T SO FINELY CALIBRATED, WE'D CERTAINLY BE LOOKING AT A SPLIT DECISION RIGHT NOW!
AS A NEW MORNING DAWNS, WE FIND THAT GAMES ARE BEING PLAYED ELSEWHERE AS WELL...
S.T.A.R. LABS
DR. JENET KLYBURN?
YES? OH! JIMMY OLSEN! COME IN, PLEASE!
NOTE: S.T.A.R. LABS--SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCED RESEARCH.
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TUNE IN THE BIG COMPETITION!
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE, DR. KLYBURN! I'VE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ZONON MIGHT BE UP TO SOMETHING...

...BUT I DON'T KNOW THE HOWS OR WHYS! WITH THE SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT AT YOUR DISPOSAL...
...I CAN EXAMINE THE PROCEEDINGS--CHECK FOR ANY "FUNNY BUSINESS"? HMMM...
NEXT MORNING...
READY... THE SIGHT OF THE LASER WILL BE YOUR SIGNAL TO...
GO!
"TODAY'S RACE IS NOT A TEST OF SPEED, BUT OF ACCURACY! EACH CONTESTANT HAS ONE HOUR-- TO THE MICROSECOND-- TO CIRCLE THE EARTH ON FOOT!
"THE PREDETERMINED COURSE WILL TAKE THEM THROUGH SUCH POINTS AS WICHITA, KANSAS... LOS MOCHIS, MEXICO..."
BOTH MY RIVAL AND I CAN ENCOMPASS THE GLOBE MANY TIMES A SECOND! BUT IN THIS EVENT, FINISHING EARLY COUNTS AGAINST US AS MUCH AS FINISHING LATE!
NO TIMEPIECES ARE PERMITTED! WE MUST USE OUR OWN "MENTAL CLOCKS" TO REMAIN ON SCHEDULE--
--A TASK MADE MORE INTERESTING BY THE VARIETY OF OBSTACLES IN OUR PATHS!






OH-OH! SOME HOODLUMS PARTICIPATING IN THEIR FAVORITE SPORT--
--PUSHING PEOPLE ONTO THE TRACKS!
AIDEZ! JE TOMBE! (HELP! I'M FALLING!)
EMPACHEZ EUX QUEL QUEN DU FAIRE! (STOP THEM, SOMEBODY!)

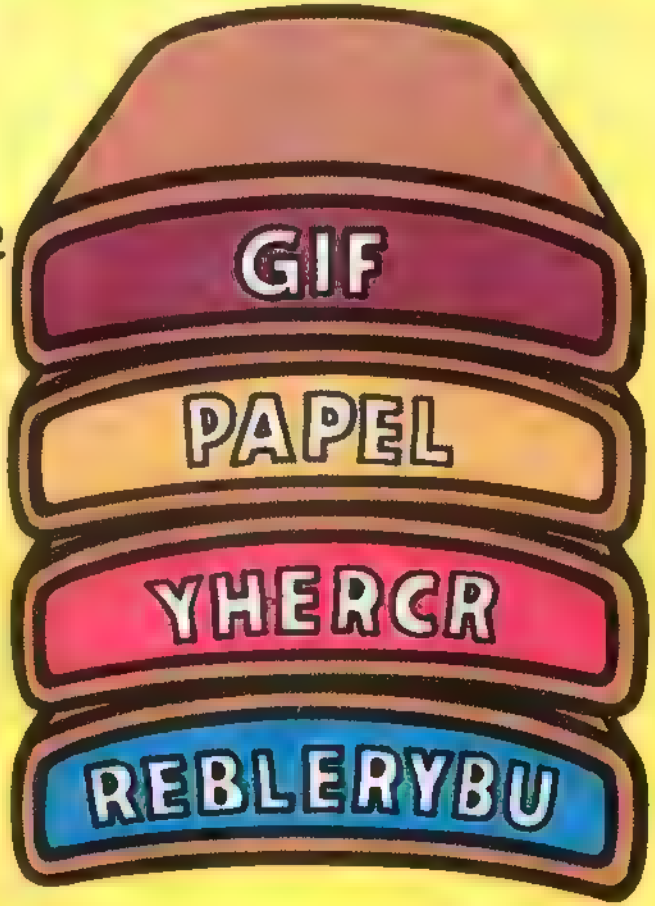

BON SOIR! I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU WERE HEADING ON THAT SUBWAY...
...BUT BY THE TIME YOU FIND YOUR WAY THERE FROM THE FRENCH BORDER, I HOPE YOU'LL HAVE LOST YOUR TASTE FOR MISCHIEF!
Q-QU'EST CE QUE C'EST PASSÉ? (WH-WHAT HAPPENED?)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Newtons Fruit Chewy Mix-Up!

Unscramble the letters on the left and fill in the Fruit Chewy Newtons flavors on the right!

HINT: there are two new flavors!

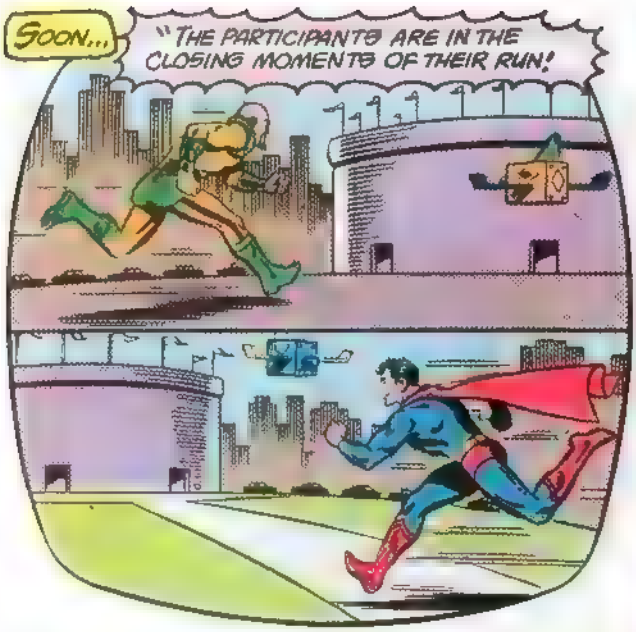


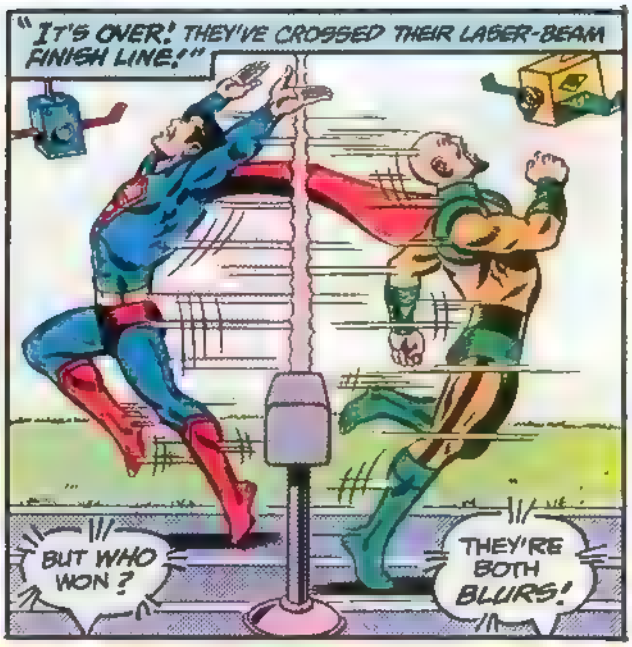
NEW!

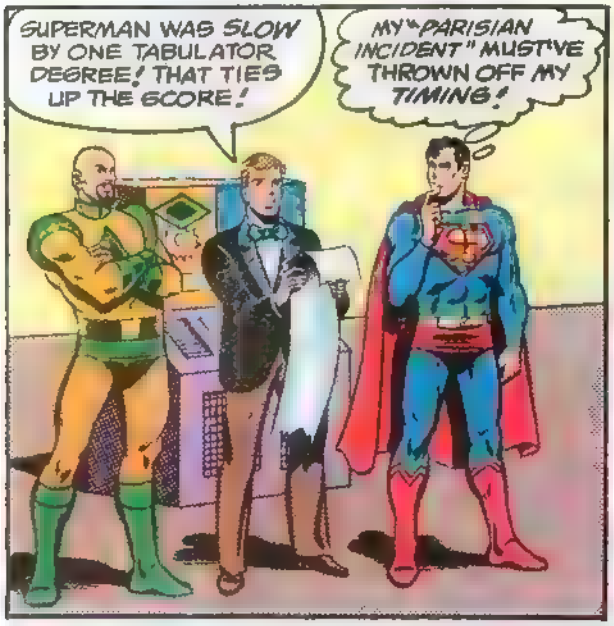
NEW!

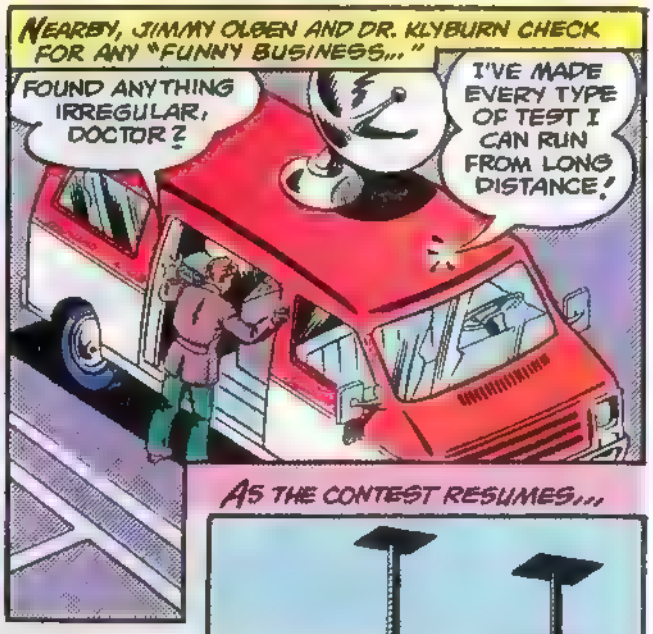
NABISCO BRANDS

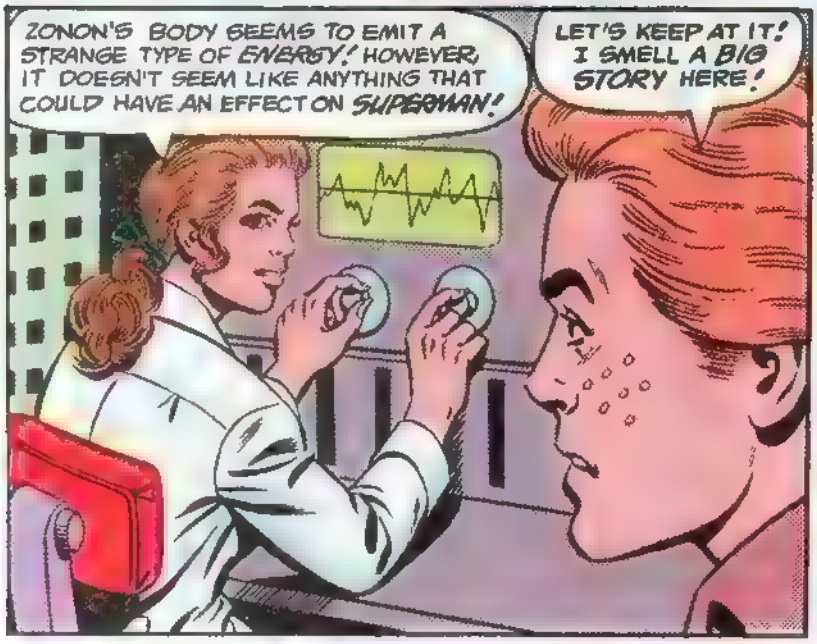
ANSWERS: FIG, APPLE, CHERRY, BLUEBERRY

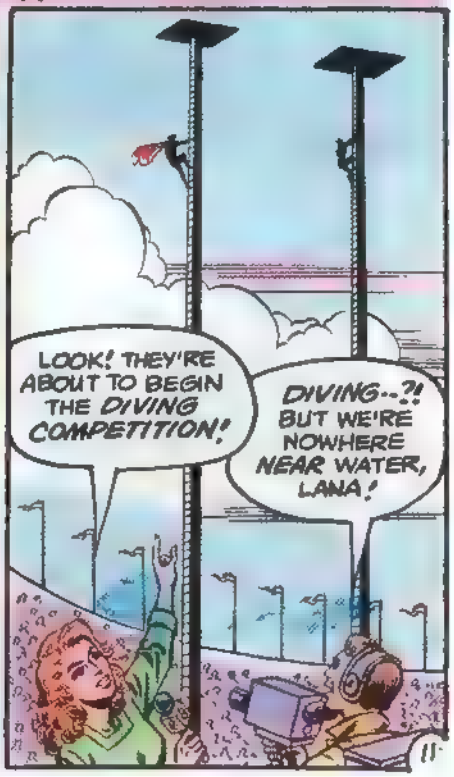

SOON...
"THE PARTICIPANTS ARE IN THE CLOSING MOMENTS OF THEIR RUN!


"IT'S OVER! THEY'VE CROSSED THEIR LASER-BEAM FINISH LINE!"
BUT WHO WON?
THEY'RE BOTH BLURS!


SUPERMAN WAS SLOW BY ONE TABULATOR DEGREE! THAT TIES UP THE SCORE!
MY "PARISIAN INCIDENT" MUST'VE THROWN OFF MY TIMING!


NEARBY, JIMMY OLSEN AND DR. KLYBURN CHECK FOR ANY "FUNNY BUSINESS..."
FOUND ANYTHING IRREGULAR, DOCTOR?
I'VE MADE EVERY TYPE OF TEST I CAN RUN FROM LONG DISTANCE!


ZONON'S BODY SEEMS TO EMIT A STRANGE TYPE OF ENERGY! HOWEVER, IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE ANYTHING THAT COULD HAVE AN EFFECT ON SUPERMAN!
LET'S KEEP AT IT! I SMELL A BIG STORY HERE!


AS THE CONTEST RESUMES...
LOOK! THEY'RE ABOUT TO BEGIN THE DIVING COMPETITION!
DIVING--?! BUT WE'RE NOWHERE NEAR WATER, LANA!

GENTLEMEN, AS SOON AS YOU'VE LOCATED YOUR TARGET WITH YOUR X-RAY VISION, KINDLY SECURE YOUR SPECIAL BLINDFOLDS!
"WE ARE WATCHING THE ATHLETES 'DIVE' FROM METROPOLIS STADIUM TO A DESIGNATED SPOT OFF THE ATLANTIC COAST! BUT THAT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THIS SPECTACULAR EVENT!
"IN THE MINUTES THAT THE COMPETITORS ARE OUT OF SIGHT, OUR ROBOT CAMERAS WILL RACE TO MEET THEM IN THE SPOT THAT THEY ARE EXPECTED TO REEMERGE--
"--NOT IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN...
"...BUT A TARGET POINT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, JUST OFF CAPE LEEUWIN, AUSTRALIA!
AUSTRALIA LOVES SUPERMAN
"A 7,927-MILE DIVE--THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF WHICH CALLED FOR OUR CONTESTANTS TO BORE CLEAN THROUGH THE EARTH!
"AN INCREDIBLE FEAT ON BOTH PARTS--BUT THE TABULATOR GIVES THE DIVING EVENT TO SUPERMAN--BY A HAIR--FOR ACCURACY!"
IT'S BEEN A LONG WEEK FOR BOTH PARTICIPANTS! AS SUPERMAN AND ZONON APPROACH THE FINAL EVENT WITH AN EQUAL SCORE, ONE QUESTION IS ON EVERYONE'S MIND:
WILL HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF TODAY?

"UNLESS THIS FINAL CONTEST RESULTS IN A DECISIVE VICTORY FOR ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER...
"...THE KRYPTON/OSTOK GAMES WILL ONCE AGAIN END IN A TIE!"
"AND THE CONTEST HAS BEGUN! FOLKS, IF THIS SCENE LACKS THE ACTION OF SOME OF THE PREVIOUS EVENTS, IT'S BECAUSE THESE TWO IRRESISTIBLE FORCES...
"...HAVE SUDDENLY BECOME IMMOVABLE OBJECTS!"
"WHAT THE CAMERA CANNOT CONVEY ARE THE TONS OF PRESSURE BEING APPLIED BY SUPERMAN AND IONOK!
"IN FACT, IT HAS BEEN PREDICTED THAT IF EITHER OPPONENT GIVES AT ALL, THE MOVEMENT WILL BE SO SLIGHT AS TO BE UNDETECTABLE BY THE HUMAN EYE!
"THE SLIGHTEST MOTION--THE MEREST FALTER ON EITHER SIDE--WILL RESULT IN AN ALARM FROM THE TABULATOR--SIGNALING AN END TO THE GAMES!"
JIMMY! SOMETHING IS HAPPENING!
LEMME SEE!
"THE TENSION MOUNTS,,, THE CROWD IS BREATHLESS AS THE FINAL MOMENTS-- WAIT!
BZZZZZZ!
"THAT SOUND MEANS--WE HAVE A WINNER!
13

DEEP WITHIN THE SECRET UNDERGROUND HEADQUARTERS OF THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY IN BURBANK, U.S.A., AN UNUSUAL MEETING IS TAKING PLACE--ONE WHICH WILL HAVE A DIRECT BEARING ON YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS IN THE MONTHS TO COME.

1985-1986 NBC SATURDAY MORNINGS

SNORKS

ADVENTURES OF THE GUMMI BEARS

SMURFS

PUNKY BREWSTER

ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS

KIDD VIDEO

MR. T

SPIDER-MAN & HIS AMAZING FRIENDS

PLUS: ONE TO GROW ON

WELCOME PUNKY AND GUMMIS

NBC SATURDAY MORNINGS ARE THE PAY LINE UP!

SPIDER-MAN, THE LITTLE BLUE GUY'S NO FOOL. THIS YEAR, WE'RE COOL... EVEN MORE THAN...

THIS IS GOING TO BE THE SMURFIEST YEAR EVER!

CAREFUL T- WE WANT TO SURPRISE THE OTHER GUYS AND YOU NEVER KNOW WHO MAY BE READING THIS COMIC.

HEY FOLKS, THIS IS SASSETTE. EVER SEEN ANYBODY SO SMURFY?

NOT SINCE THE BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN CONCERT.

WE GOTTA GO ON FIRST THING IN THE MORNING AGAIN? YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!

HEY GUYS, CAN I COME IN?

Y'KNOW, WITH THE SATURDAY MORNING PLANS THAT WE HAVE UNDER WRAPS, WE'RE GOING TO BE HOTTER THAN EVER!

THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY- YOU'RE MELTING ALL OVER ME.

LET'S ALL BE THERE!

ALVIN, HAVE YOU SEEN BRANDON?

LAST TIME I SAW HIM HE WAS CHASING A SMURF.

WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A DANCING BEAR TO JOIN OUR ACT.

I WON'T DANCE, DON'T ASK ME. I COULDN'T BEAR IT.

GROAN!

PUNKY, WITH YOU AND THE GUMMI BEARS AND FOUR NEW SMURFS JOINING US THIS YEAR, THE BEST SATURDAY MORNING ON TELEVISION JUST GOT SMURFIER!

SHHH- YOU JUST LET THE SMURF OUT OF THE BAG!

THIS FALL, TUNE INTO NBC ON SATURDAY MORNINGS AND FIND OUT HOW MUCH FUN YOU CAN TAKE BEFORE YOU CRACK UP COMPLETELY!

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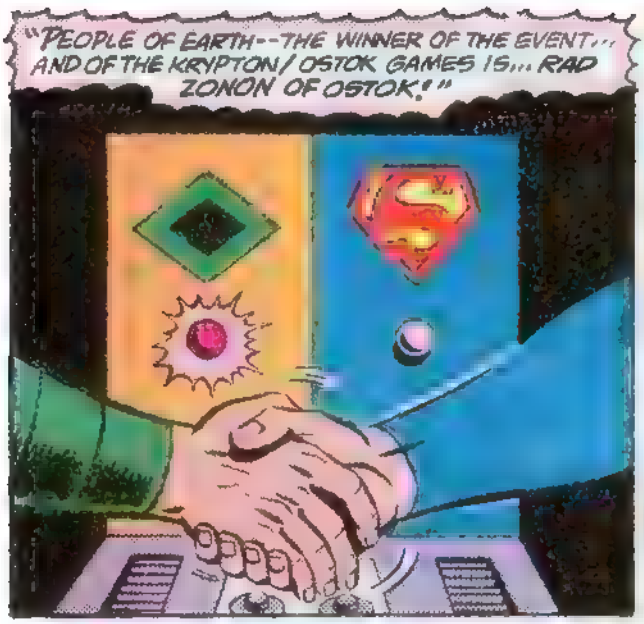
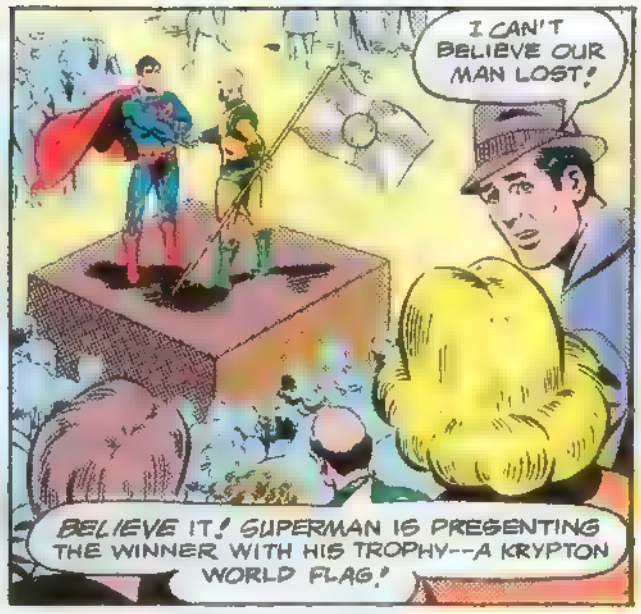
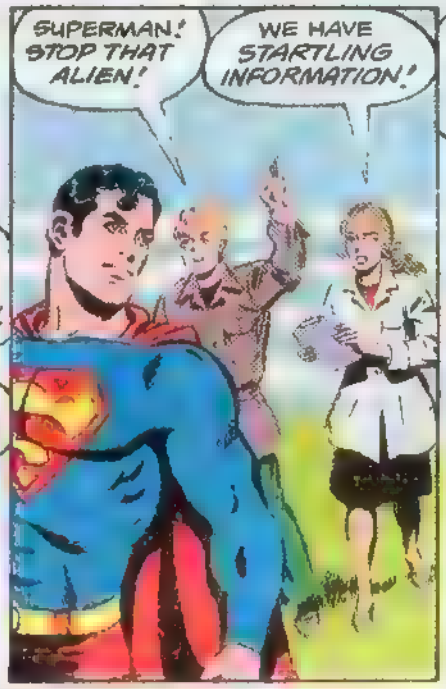
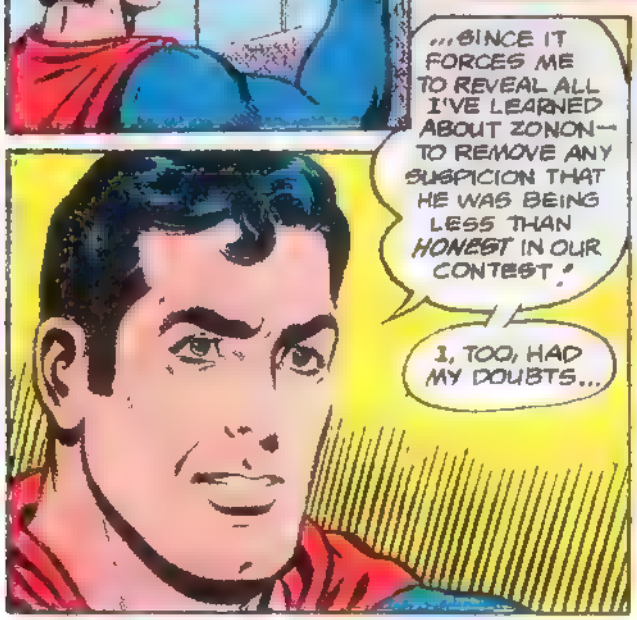

"PEOPLE OF EARTH--THE WINNER OF THE EVENT... AND OF THE KRYPTON/OSTOK GAMES IS... RAD ZONON OF OSTOK!"


I CAN'T BELIEVE OUR MAN LOST!
BELIEVE IT! SUPERMAN IS PRESENTING THE WINNER WITH HIS TROPHY--A KRYPTON WORLD FLAG!

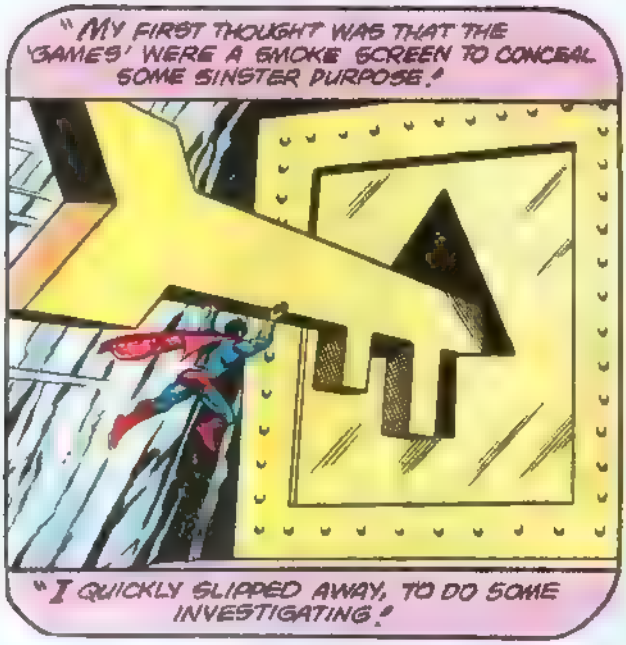
PLEASE EXCUSE MY HASTY DEPARTURE, SUPERMAN!
THANK YOU... FOR THIS... OPPORTUNITY!
SAY NO MORE, MY FRIEND! KRYPTON SALUTES YOU!

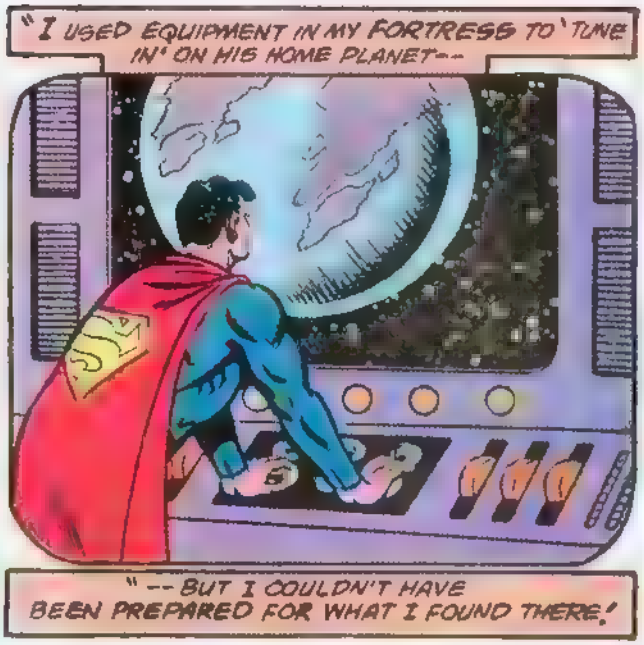

SUPERMAN! STOP THAT ALIEN!
WE HAVE STARTLING INFORMATION!

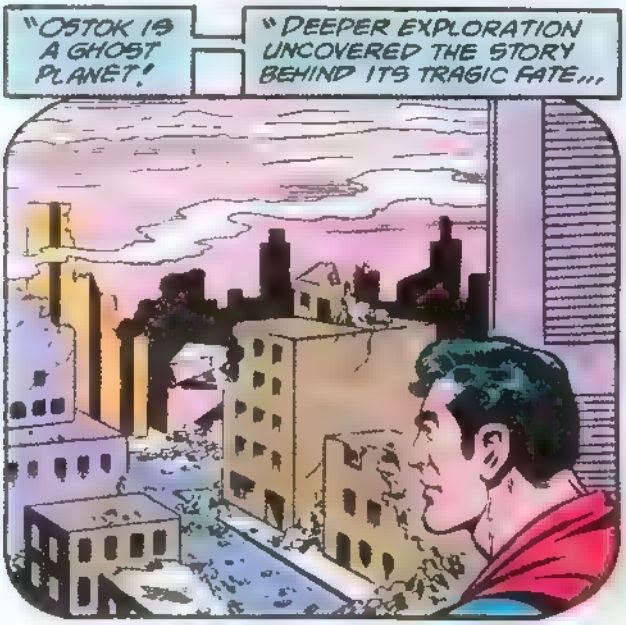
DR. KLYBURN'S DEVICE DETECTED A POWERFUL BURST OF ENERGY FROM THE ALIEN'S BODY--WHICH VERY POSSIBLY ALTERED THE TABULATOR'S FINAL READING!
INTERESTING... BUT I WISH YOU HADN'T SAID THAT, JIMMY...

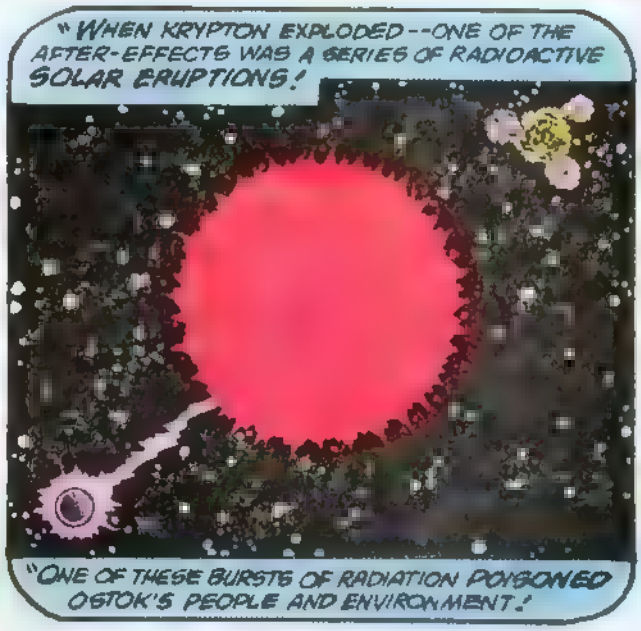

...SINCE IT FORCES ME TO REVEAL ALL I'VE LEARNED ABOUT ZONON--TO REMOVE ANY SUSPICION THAT HE WAS BEING LESS THAN HONEST IN OUR CONTEST!
I, TOO, HAD MY DOUBTS...

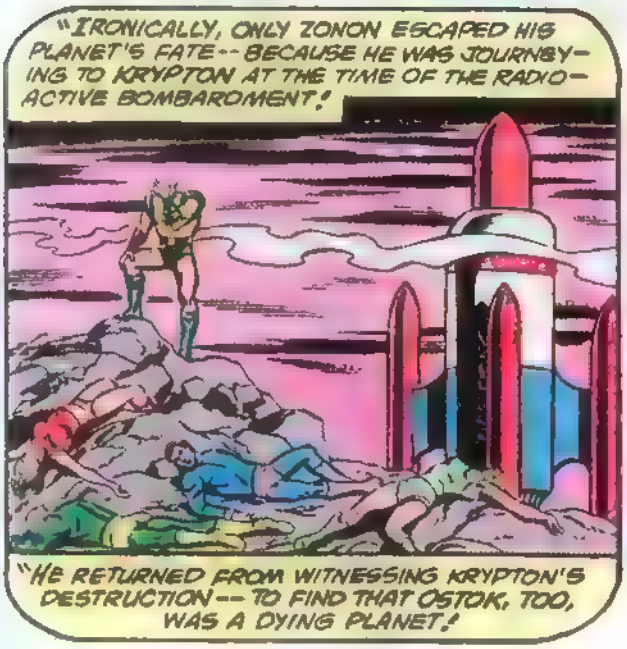
"...WHEN I HEARD ZONON'S VOICE!"
MY SUPER-HEARING DETECTS THAT HIS VOICE AND THAT OF THE "CHANCELLOR" WHO PROMPTED THIS MEETING ARE ONE AND THE SAME!
MEANING--ZONON WAS POSING AS THE CHANCELLOR!

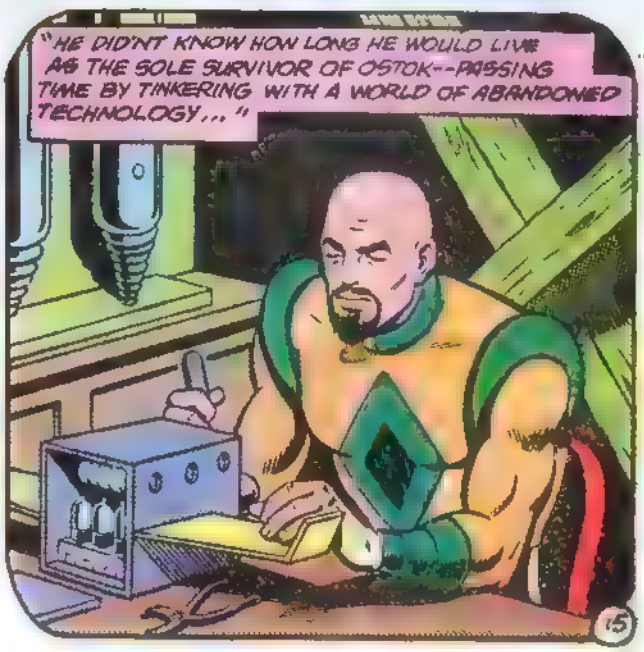

"MY FIRST THOUGHT WAS THAT THE 'GAMES' WERE A SMOKE SCREEN TO CONCEAL SOME SINSTER PURPOSE!
"I QUICKLY SLIPPED AWAY, TO DO SOME INVESTIGATING!

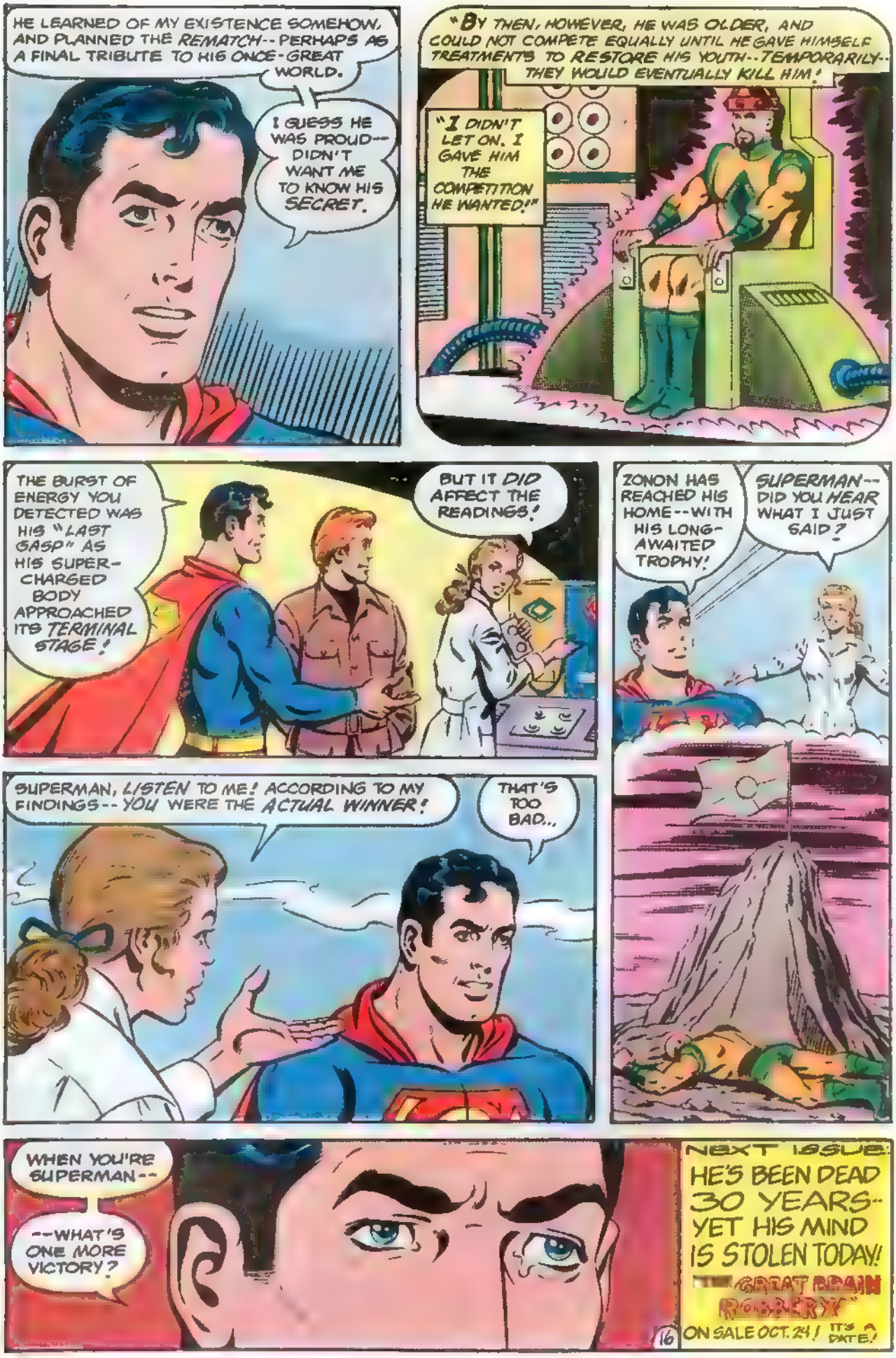

"I USED EQUIPMENT IN MY FORTRESS TO 'TUNE IN' ON HIS HOME PLANET--
"--BUT I COULDN'T HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR WHAT I FOUND THERE!


"OSTOK IS A GHOST PLANET!
"DEEPER EXPLORATION UNCOVERED THE STORY BEHIND ITS TRAGIC FATE...


"WHEN KRYPTON EXPLODED--ONE OF THE AFTER-EFFECTS WAS A SERIES OF RADIOACTIVE SOLAR ERUPTIONS!
"ONE OF THESE BURSTS OF RADIATION POISONED OSTOK'S PEOPLE AND ENVIRONMENT!


"IRONICALLY, ONLY ZONON ESCAPED HIS PLANET'S FATE--BECAUSE HE WAS JOURNEYING TO KRYPTON AT THE TIME OF THE RADIOACTIVE BOMBARDMENT!
"HE RETURNED FROM WITNESSING KRYPTON'S DESTRUCTION--TO FIND THAT OSTOK, TOO, WAS A DYING PLANET!


"HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW LONG HE WOULD LIVE AS THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF OSTOK--PASSING TIME BY TINKERING WITH A WORLD OF ABANDONED TECHNOLOGY..."
15


HE LEARNED OF MY EXISTENCE SOMEHOW, AND PLANNED THE REMATCH--PERHAPS AS A FINAL TRIBUTE TO HIS ONCE-GREAT WORLD.
I GUESS HE WAS PROUD--DIDN'T WANT ME TO KNOW HIS SECRET.
"BY THEN, HOWEVER, HE WAS OLDER, AND COULD NOT COMPETE EQUALLY UNTIL HE GAVE HIMSELF TREATMENTS TO RESTORE HIS YOUTH--TEMPORARILY--THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY KILL HIM!
"I DIDN'T LET ON. I GAVE HIM THE COMPETITION HE WANTED!"
THE BURST OF ENERGY YOU DETECTED WAS HIS "LAST GASP" AS HIS SUPER-CHARGED BODY APPROACHED ITS TERMINAL STAGE!
BUT IT DID AFFECT THE READINGS!
ZONON HAS REACHED HIS HOME--WITH HIS LONG-AWAITED TROPHY!
SUPERMAN--DID YOU HEAR WHAT I JUST SAID?
SUPERMAN, LISTEN TO ME! ACCORDING TO MY FINDINGS--YOU WERE THE ACTUAL WINNER!
THAT'S TOO BAD..
WHEN YOU'RE SUPERMAN--
--WHAT'S ONE MORE VICTORY?
16
NEXT ISSUE:
HE'S BEEN DEAD 30 YEARS--YET HIS MIND IS STOLEN TODAY!
"THE GREAT BRAIN ROBBERY"
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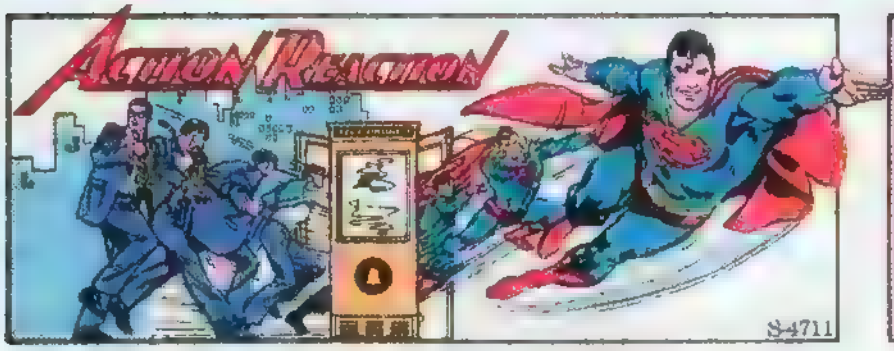

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Dear Julie and Bob,

Last month I sent a letter to this column criticizing the editors for an excessive amount of "silliness" in *ACTION*. Thus, I'm probably a hypocrite when I now say that I really loved "The Superman Who Came to Dinner" in *ACTION* #570. The story was hilarious from start to end. I especially liked it when *Superman* said that he "thought that Beef Bourguignon was awfully crunchy!" after the serving dish vanished. Also, the style of the art seemed to fit the tone of the story perfectly, but without being excessively cartoony or unrealistic. One minor flaw as far as realism goes was to show a star within the crescent of the moon on page 5; this can never happen in real life, since the dark part of the moon blocks the light from stars behind it.

As for my other criticism of last month, that many of these humorous stories don't really fit well into the "serious" continuity of the DC Universe, this story answers those objections with a reasonably plausible explanation for *Superman*'s actions; at least, it's no more implausible than many plot twists in your more serious stories. Congratulations are due to Craig Boldman, Howard Bender, and everybody else responsible for this story. I hope future issues of *ACTION* can be filled with judicious mixtures of well-done humor like this, along with more serious stories. Or, in other words, some "action" and something "comic," to suit the mag's title!

A few words on the rest of the comic. I really liked the cover; it jumped out at me in the comic shop. Too bad the lead story didn't live up to it; it was just another rehash of the old cliche plot of splitting a character into two parts, one good and one evil, resolved at the end by merging them back together. However, this is usually done using *Superman*/Clark Kent, and so doing it to Jimmy Olsen is original to some extent.

DANIEL TOBIAS
4730 Centre Ave., Apt. 212
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Daniel, we know your kind—underneath all that intelligence, you really like a little silliness every now and again! That's why we keep you happy!—LR

*****

Dear Julie and Bob,

After reading "The Mystery of Jimmy Olsen's Alter Ego," one can be relieved there is once again only one Jimmy Olsen in existence. The best line in the story was Alter Ego wishing he could be awed by watching himself loot the bank.

"The Superman Who Came to Dinner" reeked of strangeness. For the first seven pages I was baffled. And by the end I thought it would be noble of Mr. Weems to forgive *Superman* for saving his life twice.

KEITH DRAWBAUGH
4008 Old Orchard St.
York, PA 17402

Keith, you're in good company, for most of our readers were relieved that there was only one Jimmy Olsen in the end! Could the world be ready for two?!—LR

*****

Dear Editor,

A thousand thanks! Thank you for adding yet another fine character to the collection of "colorful" Jimmy Olsen transformations.

Alter Ego seems like a very promising villain. Let's not have him ... er ... fade away like other Jimmy Olsen personas. Alter Ego has all the qualities that could make for a very deadly and sinister villain. How about next time around, don't make him so lighthearted. I think that's the word I want—make him more villainous! He could be right up there with Luthor and Terra-man.

Story and art? Top-notch! And I'll give "The Superman Who Came to Dinner" a 5 on the 10 scale.

RICK (LA) STEEL
Cleveland, Ohio

So, Rick, why not the other 5 points on that scale of yours?—LR

*****

Dear Julie and Bob, (or maybe Laurie?)

So Laurie is not enthused about visiting Montreal in "the dead of winter," eh? Well, this January or February, how about a trip to wonderful Toronto—so much better than Montreal at that time of year. We have a lot less snow—3 feet instead of 6 feet—the brisk winds off Lake Ontario add an invigorating snap to the air, there is no shortage of public ice skating areas (on most highways and roads), the frequent power brownouts provide the perfect excuse for romantic candlelight dinners—need I go on? I thought not.

T.M. MAPLE
Weston, ONT M9L2R9 Canada

Well, T.M., since it's in the high 80's and very muggy as I type this—and the air conditioners aren't in yet—I find the thought of all that ice and snow very appealing. Could we make that trip sooner?—LR

*****

Dear Editor,

Lately, the majority of stories in *ACTION* have been very light. *ACTION* #570 was no exception. The Alter Ego tale was a little too far-fetched for me. It went beyond fun and silliness to the point of ridiculousness. You can't win 'em all, right?

Anyway, I really did enjoy the second feature, "The Superman Who Came to Dinner." I've never seen anything so strange in a *Superman* story—which is most likely why I enjoyed it so much. To see *Superman* being such a roue was great. Now, though, I'm ready for some serious stuff. What do you say?

JEFF MITCHELL
Rush City, MN 55069

Jeff, maybe I'm a touch cranky today, but if you really want some serious stuff, catch today's papers—if not, stick with the comics!—LR

*****

Dear Editor,

ACTION #570 contained two types of lighthearted *Superman* stories. The first, "The Mystery of Jimmy Olsen's Alter Ego," isn't as much of a mystery as it is a fun story centered around Jimmy and his ego. Modestly enough, it was executed exceedingly well by Paul Kupperberg, Kurt Schaffenberger, and Dave Hunt.

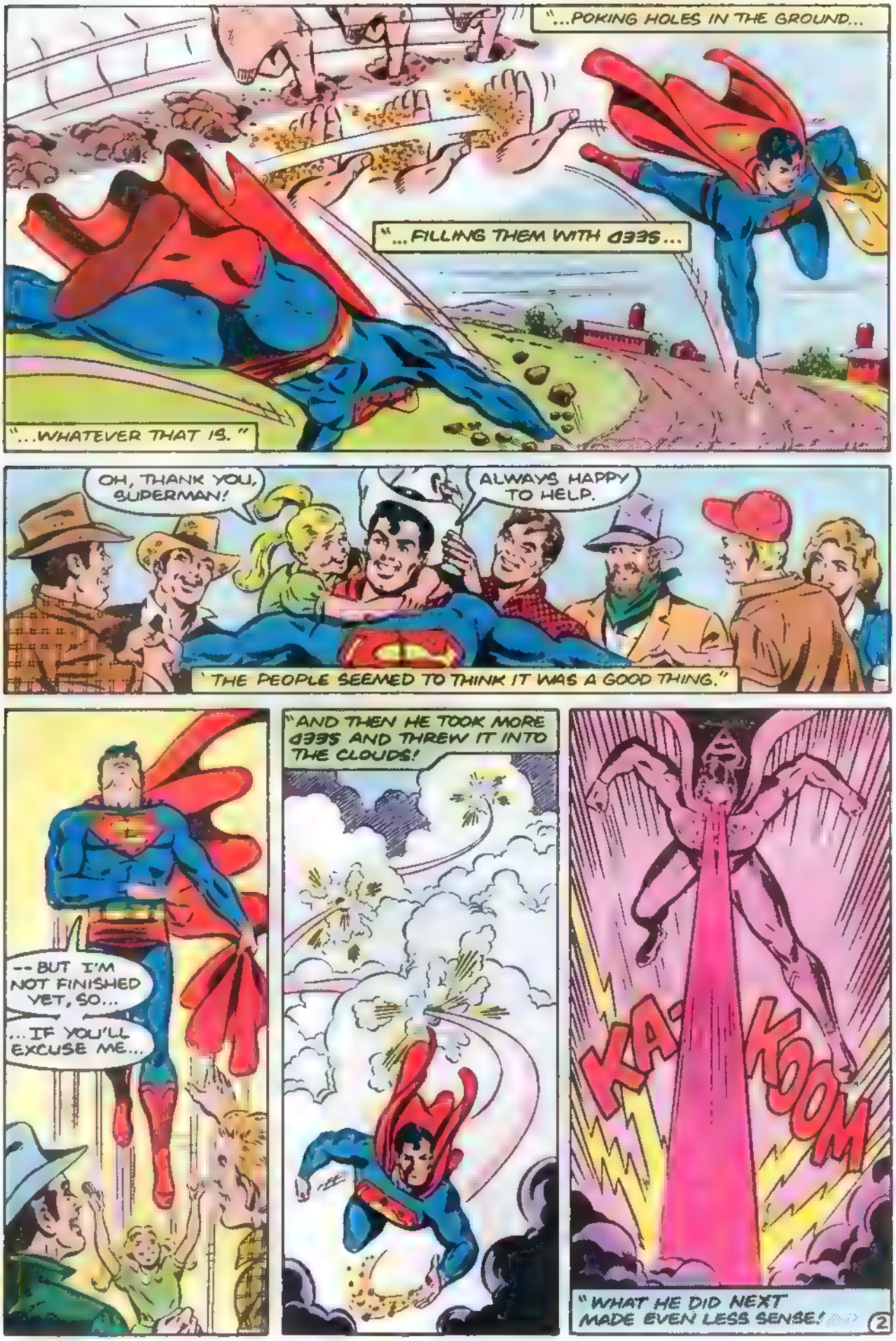
"The Superman Who Came to Dinner," on the other hand, is "light" with no "heart." In the words of Monty Python's colonel, "This is just silly." Craig Boldman has written better stories, and hopefully this was a momentary lapse.

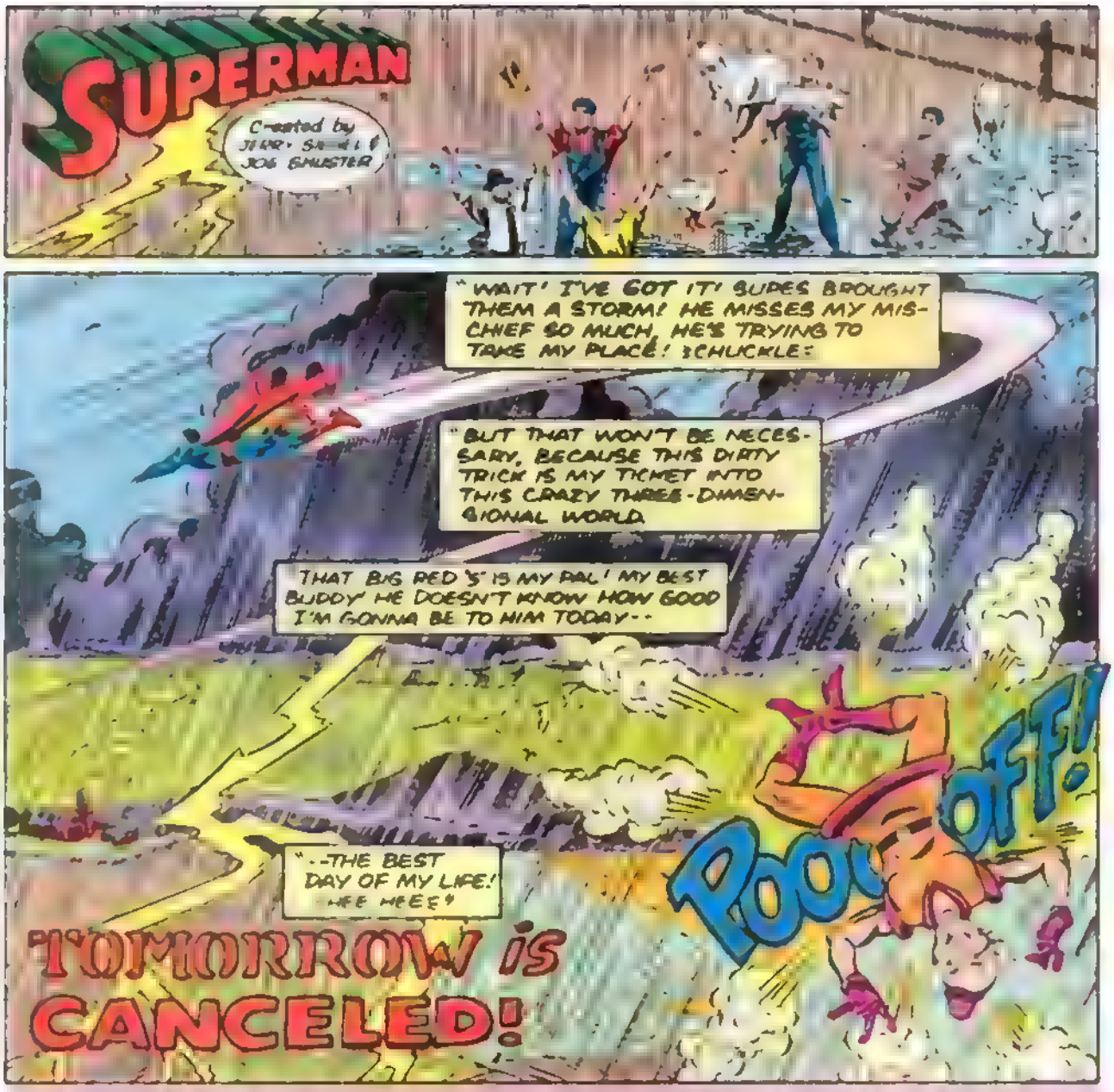
My suggestion to you, Bob, and Mr. Schwartz is that if you want silly, bring back *Ambush Bug*. Or use the *Legion of Substitute Heroes*.

HURRICANE HERRAN
Van Nuys, CA 91406

Hurricane, that's all that I'd need—to bring more silliness back to ACTION. Then Jeff Mitchell would really be angry. So, we'll just have to see what DC has to offer by looking up, in the sky ... Laurie Rozakis for Bob Rozakis

"JUST MY LUCK! THERE I WAS, CLOSE ENOUGH TO TOUCH HIM, AND I WAS STUCK BETWEEN DIMENSIONS. STUCK! ME!!
"I COULDN'T WAIT TO TELL OL' SUPES THE BIG NEWS, AND INVITE HIM TO THE PARTY :CHUCKLE: ATTENDANCE MANDATORY, OF COURSE.
THE DROUGHT PROBLEM'S GOTTEN WORSE SINCE I WAS LAST HERE.
IT'S TOO LATE TO SAVE THESE POOR ANIMALS, BUT A QUICK RESEEDING AND A LITTLE RAIN SHOULD GIVE THE FARMERS DOWN BELOW THE EDGE THEY NEED.
"BUT HE WOULDN'T MIND. IN HIS OWN SAP-BRAINED WAY, THE METROPOLIS MARVEL IDOLIZES ME. I'M TOO MODEST TO ACKNOWLEDGE IT, BUT IT'S TRUE.
"WHILE I TRIED TO GET MYSELF UNSTUCK, HE MADE HIMSELF BUSY.


"...POKING HOLES IN THE GROUND...
"...FILLING THEM WITH GEES...
"...WHATEVER THAT IS."
OH, THANK YOU, SUPERMAN!
ALWAYS HAPPY TO HELP.
"THE PEOPLE SEEMED TO THINK IT WAS A GOOD THING."
--BUT I'M NOT FINISHED YET, SO...
...IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
"AND THEN HE TOOK MORE GEES AND THREW IT INTO THE CLOUDS!
KA-
KOOM
"WHAT HE DID NEXT MADE EVEN LESS SENSE!
2


SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
"WAIT! I'VE GOT IT! SUPES BROUGHT THEM A STORM! HE MISSES MY MISCHIEF SO MUCH, HE'S TRYING TO TAKE MY PLACE! :CHUCKLE:
"BUT THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, BECAUSE THIS DIRTY TRICK IS MY TICKET INTO THIS CRAZY THREE-DIMENSIONAL WORLD
THAT BIG RED 'S' IS MY PAL! MY BEST BUDDY! HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW GOOD I'M GONNA BE TO HIM TODAY--
"--THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE! HEE HEE!"
POOF!
TOMORROW IS CANCELED!

BOB RAFFELBERGER & BARBARA RANDALL / PLOT
BARBARA RANDALL / DIALOGUE
HOWARD BENDER / PENCILER
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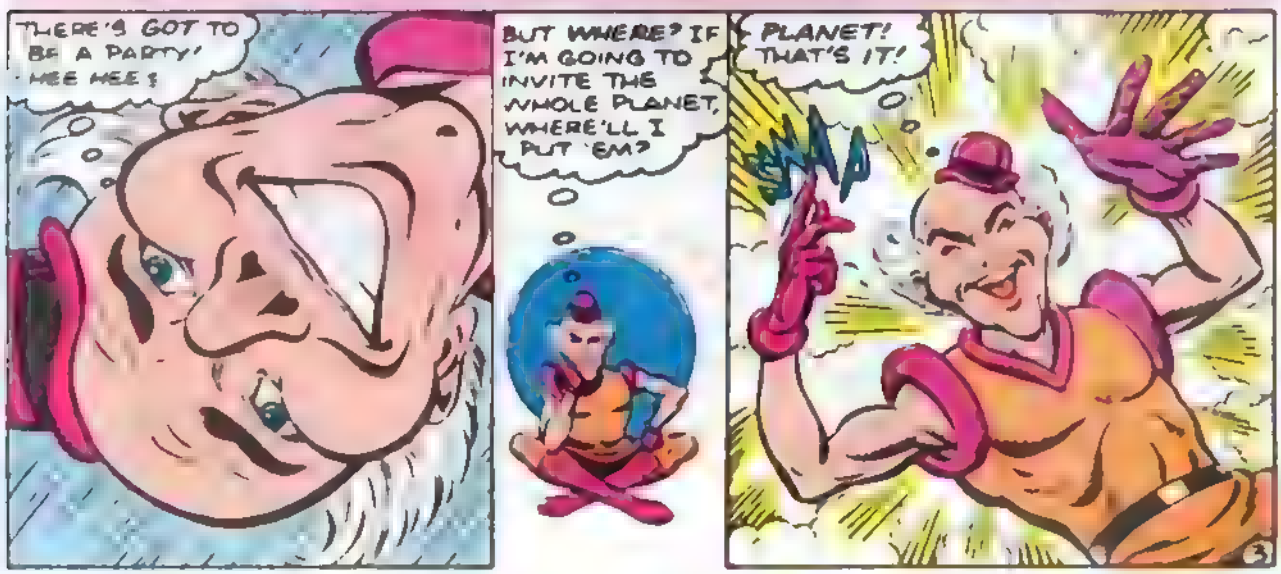
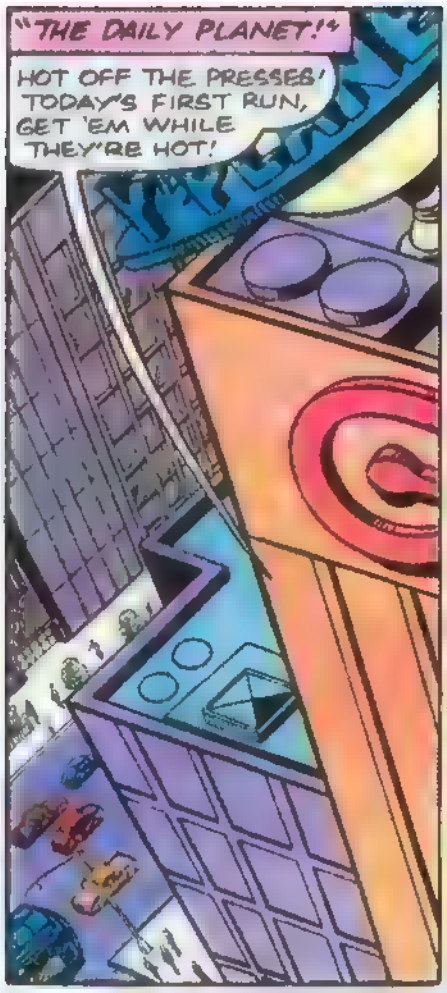
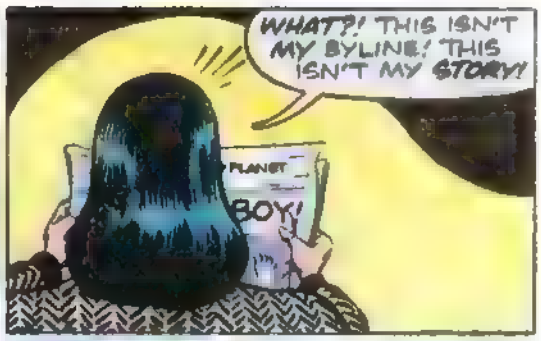
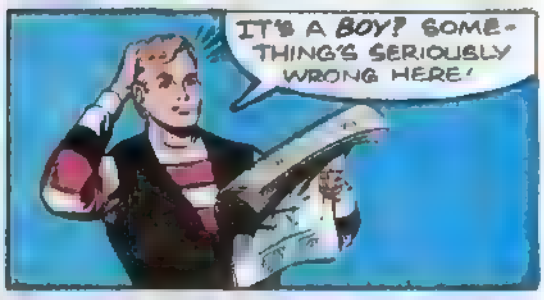
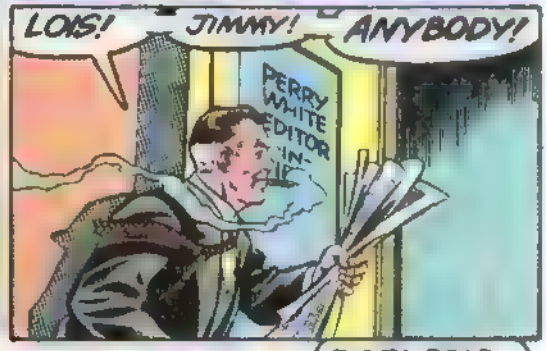




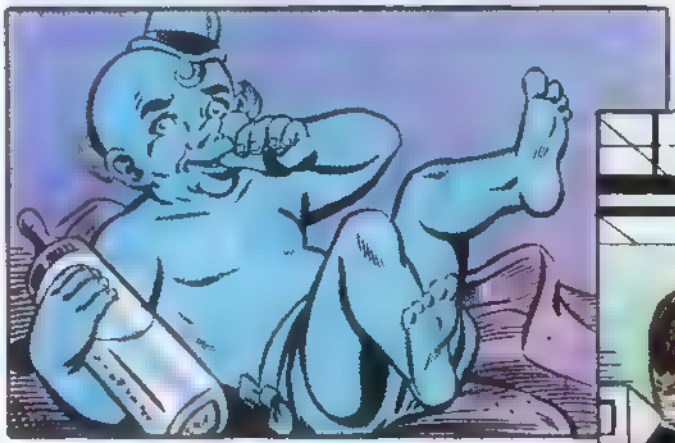






DAILY PLANET METRO SPORTS FINAL

IT'S A BOY!



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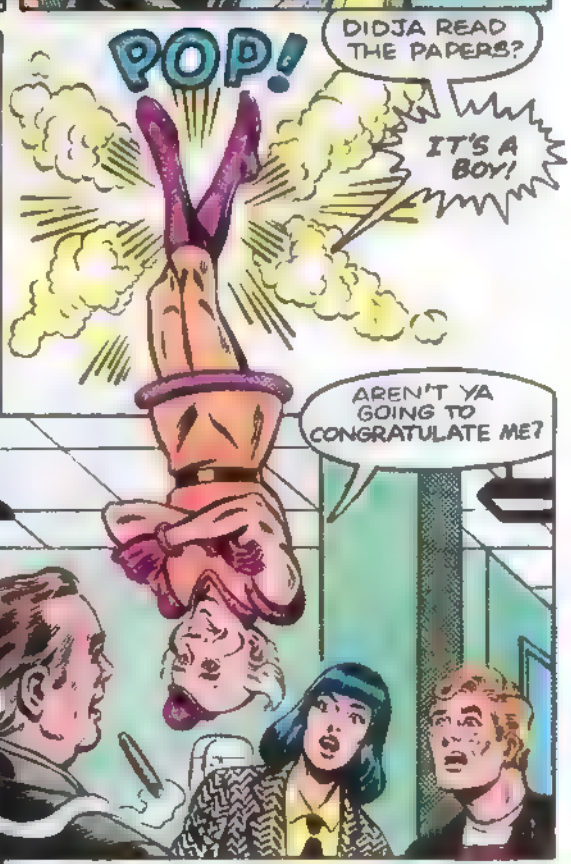

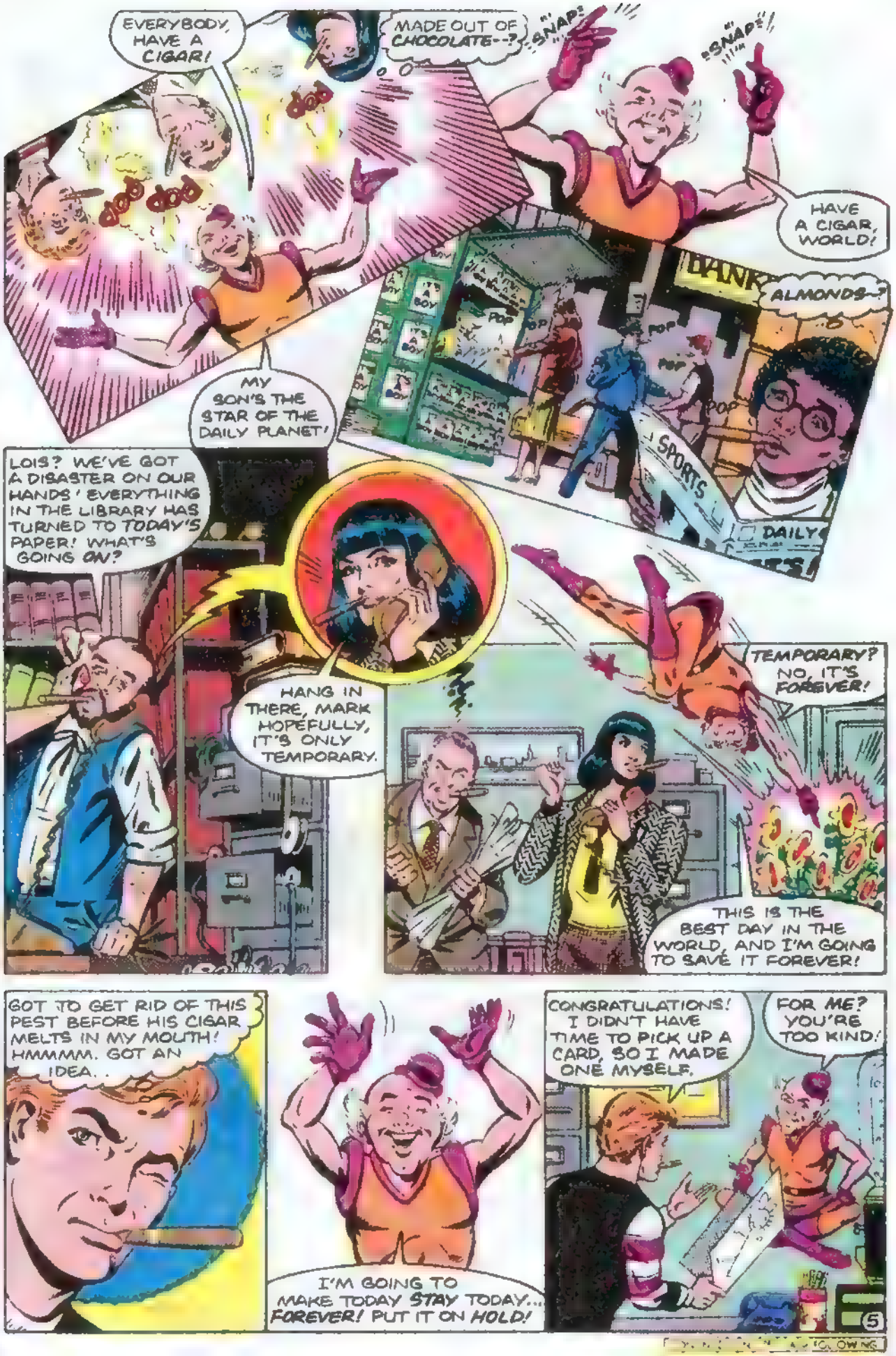
EVERYBODY, HAVE A CIGAR!
MADE OUT OF CHOCOLATE--?
"SNAP!"
"SNAP!"
HAVE A CIGAR, WORLD!
POP
BANK
ALMONDS--?
SPORTS
DAILY
MY SON'S THE STAR OF THE DAILY PLANET!
LOIS? WE'VE GOT A DISASTER ON OUR HANDS! EVERYTHING IN THE LIBRARY HAS TURNED TO TODAY'S PAPER! WHAT'S GOING ON?
HANG IN THERE, MARK HOPEFULLY, IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY.
TEMPORARY? NO, IT'S FOREVER!
THIS IS THE BEST DAY IN THE WORLD, AND I'M GOING TO SAVE IT FOREVER!
GOT TO GET RID OF THIS PEST BEFORE HIS CIGAR MELTS IN MY MOUTH! HMMMM. GOT AN IDEA..
I'M GOING TO MAKE TODAY STAY TODAY... FOREVER! PUT IT ON HOLD!
CONGRATULATIONS! I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO PICK UP A CARD, SO I MADE ONE MYSELF.
FOR ME? YOU'RE TOO KIND!
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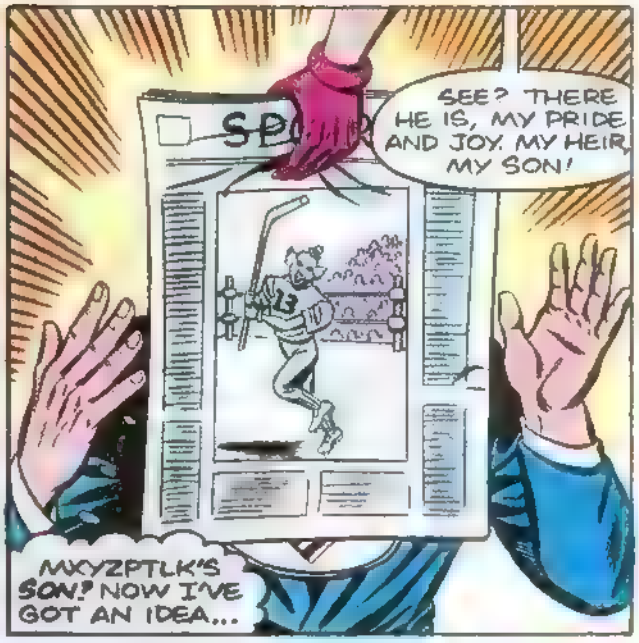
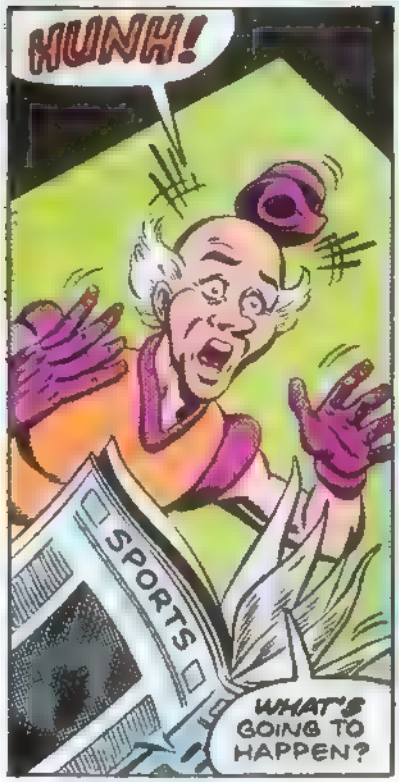
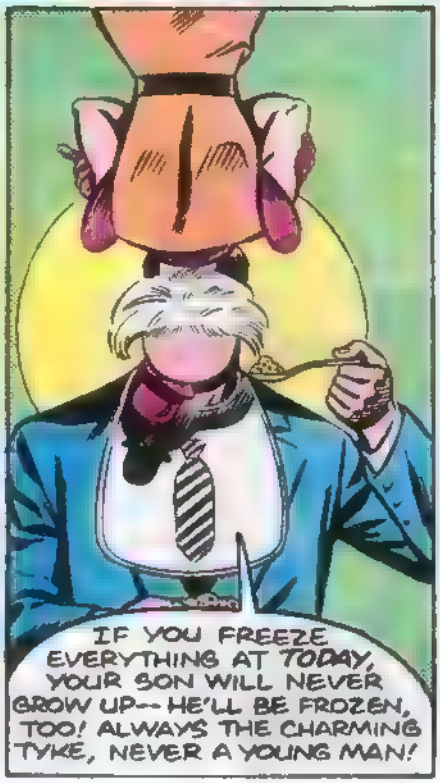
CAN'T THINK OF WORDS AND DON'T MEAN MAYBE TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR BABY!
BUT IF I COULD, (GOSH, WHAT A FIX!) THEY'D SOUND JUST LIKE PITEL, IK'YIZ, MIX!
HEE HEE HEE YOU CAN'T FOOL ME THAT EASILY TODAY!
NOPE, I'M GOING TO STAY, AND KEEP EVERYTHING JUST THE WAY IT IS! IT'S TODAY FOREVER!
TOMORROW IS CANCELED UNLESS WE GET RID OF HIM!
AND, SINCE I'M SO HAPPY, I'LL FORGIVE YOU THAT LITTLE TRICK...
...AND EVEN THROW IN A BIG TREAT!
ONLY THE BEST FOR MY FRIENDS!
BUT WHERE'S SUPERMAN?
HE'S THE V.I.P. GUEST--IT CAN'T BE A PARTY WITHOUT HIM!
GOO.
CLARK! BIBS, BOTTLES--WHAT'S GOING ON?
PROBABLY ANOTHER OF JIMMY'S JOKES, LANA.
PRESS ROOM
AHA!
MORE GUESTS!
OH, NO!
POOF!
6

I TAKE IT YOU'RE BEHIND THE PARTY?
DARN TOOTIN', CLARKIE! THIS IS KYTSZBTN'S PARTY AND IT'S GOING TO LAST A LOOOOOONG TIME! HEE HEE


SEE? THERE HE IS, MY PRIDE AND JOY. MY HEIR, MY SON!
MXYZPTLK'S SON! NOW I'VE GOT AN IDEA...

WHAT D'YA THINK?
SPORTS
WELL, IT'S WONDERFUL THAT YOU'RE GOING TO LET US BE PART OF YOUR SON'S ETERNAL PARTY, BUT--
--IT'S TOO BAD ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO LITTLE KYTSZBTN..


HUNH!
SPORTS
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?


IF YOU FREEZE EVERYTHING AT TODAY, YOUR SON WILL NEVER GROW UP-- HE'LL BE FROZEN, TOO! ALWAYS THE CHARMING TYKE, NEVER A YOUNG MAN!

YOU CAN NEVER TAKE HIM FISHING, OUT TO A BALLGAME. YOU'LL NEVER SEE HIM GRADUATE, GET A JOB, FOLLOW IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS. YOU'LL MISS OUT ON THE FUN OF WATCHING YOUR SON GROW UP.
STOP!

STOP IT! I'M GOING BACK! I WANT TO SEE MY SON AGAIN!
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
FIRST, I'LL TURN THE WORLD BACK ON...
BEFORE I GO, CLARK, THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME FROM A HORRIBLE MISTAKE!
NO PROBLEM.
HERE I GO! IK! PITEL! GARMPFH!
MR. MXYZPTLK HAS TO SAY HIS NAME BACKWARDS TO RETURN TO HIS HOME DIMENSION OF ZRFFF--JULIE.
YIK, MIZ, MUSTY FRIBBLES...
MIX, YZ, SNIBBLE GLURK...
NOTHING!
I'M SO USED TO RESISTING BEING SENT BACK, I CAN'T MAKE MYSELF SAY IT!
MAYBE A GOOD CIGAR WILL HELP!
PRACTICE BY READING THE LABEL, THEN YOU CAN TRY YOUR NAME AGAIN!
IT'S A KILT-PIZ-YIX-IM BOY.
KILT-PIZ? HEY! YOU DID IT! SO LONG, FOLKS!
HOW'D YOU DO IT, CLARK?
EASY, LOIS--
I JUST GOT HIM TO SAY THE MAGIC...WOID!
IT'S A KILTPIZYXM BOY.
THE END

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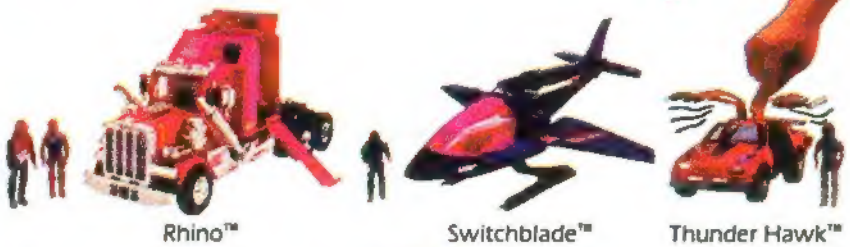

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